

# DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY ADMINISTRATION (DDA) EMPLOYMENT FIRST NEWSLETTER

**October 2019 Monthly News and Updates**

## **October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month**



### **Dorian's Story - Flourishing in Role Focused on Talents**

Knowing his fondness for the arts and creativity, Dorian's job developer helped make a job match at a small, woodworking company called [Autumn Summer](#). They manufacture high end, handmade wooden gifts which they brand with a company's logo. Autumn Summer owner Ryan Herbstsomer, was very welcoming and accommodating to Dorian. As shop assistant, Dorian's duties are sanding, finishing and prepping wood. He has become a valued member of the Autumn Summer team. He is included on the company website, which was a very proud moment for Dorian, his family and The Arc Carroll County staff. He works independently with natural supports at the shop. The change in Dorian's attitude is palpable. He has flourished in the position which emphasizes the importance of being able to discover an individual's talents, skills, likes and dislikes. We are all very proud of him and what he has accomplished.

[To read Dorian's full story, click here.](#)

Visit the Autumn Summer website  
at [www.autumnsummerco.com](http://www.autumnsummerco.com).



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## **APSE Informational Webinars Certified Employment Support Professional and National Disability Employment Awareness Month**



Do you have questions about the Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) exam? APSE recently held an informational webinar to walk you through everything you need to know. Here is the webinar recording on demand: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8063353586465709067>.

Don't miss out on APSE's free webinars for National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2019!

### Mind Your Business: Employment Advancement of the Future

Tuesday 10/8 from 1-2pm EST

Learn how to "talk business" with employers in order to maximize your influence on the advancement of employment for people with disabilities. Explore messaging, data, and how to tie your organization's mission to a business partner's bottom line. By leveraging relationships and expertise, you can transform from being a service provider to an industry expert in the area of inclusive hiring.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8358947391016803341>

### Reverse Job Fair- What Is It and How To Do It

Thursday 10/17 from 1-2pm EST

Tired of the same old job fairs? Want a new innovative way to have employers meet potential employees? Learn how to creatively engage your local community to implement a reverse job fair!

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8300356616099436812>

### Role of Supported Employment Professional in Disability Disclosure

Thursday, 10/31 from 1-2pm EST

This session will discuss the "hows and whys" of disability disclosure, what is a reasonable accommodation, and how to represent someone in a respectful way.

Register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3421104442349216525>

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## **Highlights - Employment First Summit: October 11**



### **Maryland 2019 Employment First Summit Partners in Transformation**

The DDA hosted its annual Maryland Employment First Summit. Partners convened to support the efforts of people with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining competitive and integrated employment.

Opening remarks were provided by Maryland State agency partner leadership. Remarks discussed state and local level collaboration and shared vision related to competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities in Maryland.



Pictured left to right: Assistant Superintendent Scott Dennis, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), Assistant Superintendent Marcella Franczkowski, Maryland State Department of Education Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (MSDE), Deputy Secretary Bernard Simons, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and Secretary Carol Beatty, Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)

Morning sessions included presentations by John Butterworth from the State Employment

Leadership Network (SELN) about Organizational Transformation and Dale Verstegen of TransCen. Dale talked about the importance of Employer Engagement and understanding the economic impact of customized employment. The presentation was followed by a discussion highlighting the employer perspective with Eric Cole of the National Cancer Institute and Neill Christopher, previously with Acadia Windows.



Left to right: Eric Cole, Neill Christopher, Dale Verstegen

Afternoon breakout session presenters:

- Jade Gingrich (DOD) and Dana Hackey (Way Station, Inc.), *Managing Field Based Staff to Achieve Employment Results: Using Data as a Performance Management Tool and Other lessons learned from MD PROMISE*
- Dale Verstegen (TranScen), *Approaching Employers and Developing Long Term Partnerships*
- Laurie Lyons (Service Coordination, Inc. (SCI)) *The Role of Coordination of Community Services (CCS) in Supporting the Path to Employment*

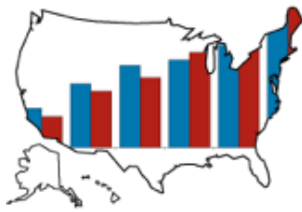
The day ended with a presentation from Kevin Walker and Gary Madigan (Penn Mar Community Services), *How Penn Mar Supports Self-Employment*. The presentation highlighted how Penn Mar supported a person in service become an entrepreneur.



Laurie Lyons, SCI

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## Reminder: October's Employment Data Collection



**StateData.info**  
YOUR RESOURCE FOR DATA ON EMPLOYMENT & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**What:** Twice a year, all DDA Meaningful Day providers are required to submit data for all people they support who receive Day Habilitation, Employment Discovery and Customization, Career Exploration, Community Development Services or Supported Employment. Providers of Meaningful Day Services are to document various employment and community outcomes via the DDA web-based, Employment Outcome Information System for a two-week period within the month of October 2019.

**When:** Providers will choose any concurrent 2 week period in the month of October during which they will track the designated outcomes. **Providers will have until December 6, 2019 to submit their data into the system.**

**Why:** The DDA, in partnership with the SELN, created a robust data collection system to inform stakeholders and leaders of progress toward employment goals, and opportunities to improve system's performance. This data assists DDA in making policy and budgetary decisions.

The Data system is designed to help the DDA and stakeholders develop the supports and infrastructure to fulfill the vision and goals of Maryland's Position Statement on Employment Services, and to provide longitudinal data that supports Maryland's goals to improve both participation in integrated employment and the quality of employment outcomes.

### More information:

If you need a refresher related to the data collection expectations see the resources and instructions below:

[Original webinar outlining purpose and scope of data initiative](#)

[Webinar on how to use the data system](#)

[Webinar on system updates in 2018](#)

[Maryland DDA Employment Outcome Information System Instructions](#)

[Maryland DDA Employment Outcome Information System FAQ](#)

The Maryland DDA Employment Data Initiative: <https://www.statedata.info/mdda/>

If you have questions about the data collection, please contact Staci Jones at [Staci.Jones@maryland.gov](mailto:Staci.Jones@maryland.gov).

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## The DDA Educational Series Webinar Recordings

The DDA Education Series webinars are available to view by going to the [DDA archived webinar](#)



[page](#). You will find a complete list on the right side of the web-page. Below is a list of webinar offerings in this series.

[Eligibility](#)  
[Person Centered Planning](#)  
[Person Centered Plan Authorization](#)  
[DDA Waiver Programs](#)  
[Self-Directed Service Delivery Model](#)  
[Employment and Meaningful Day](#)  
[Behavior Services](#)  
[Community of Practice: Charting the LifeCourse Framework](#)  
[How to Report Abuse and Neglect](#)  
[Role of the Coordinator of Community Services \(CCS\)](#)  
[Understanding Appeals and Reconsideration](#)  
[Using SIS-A in Person Centered Planning](#)

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## Want more information about Employment First?

- Go to the DDA's [Employment First Page](#)
- Sign up for the [Employment First mailing list](#)
- View previous [Employment First webinars](#)
- Contact Staci Jones by email at [staci.jones@maryland.gov](mailto:staci.jones@maryland.gov)

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STAY CONNECTED TO DDA THROUGH FACEBOOK



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Maryland Department of Health  
201 W. Preston St. | Baltimore MD, 21201  
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The Maryland Department of Health promotes the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. The State of Maryland pledges to provide constituents, businesses, customers, and stakeholders with quality customer service. [Take our Customer Satisfaction Survey.](#)